

Youth Resource Connections

NEWSLETTER

Youth Resource Connections

is a monthly newsletter that provides information, resources, and tools to workforce professionals who work every day to impact the lives of youth and young adults.

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Headlines

DOL Awards Up to \$85 Million in YouthBuild Grants to 67 Grantees. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced the award of 67 grants totaling up to \$85 million to support and expand YouthBuild programs across the country. YouthBuild provides at-risk youth, ages 16-24, with education and occupational skill development to obtain employment in construction and other in-demand industries. For information on the DOL's YouthBuild program, visit: https://www.doleta.gov/Youth_services/YouthBuild.cfm. To view the press release, visit: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20191216>.

Looking for more information and resources to support your youth program?



Visit the **Youth Connections Community of Practice** for the latest training, promising practices, and technical assistance tools.

Headlines

(continued)

HUD Awards Nearly \$200 Million for Affordable Housing in Native American Communities

On December 11, 2019, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced nearly \$200 million in grant awards to 52 Native American Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities across the Nation for new housing construction, housing rehabilitation, and critical infrastructure projects. HUD announced the grants during the 2019 National American Indian Housing Council Legal Symposium in Las Vegas. To view the press release, visit: https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/HUD_No_19_174.

Secretary DeVos Delivers on Promise to Launch Centralized Federal Student Aid Information Hub for Students, Borrowers.

Delivering on U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos' promise to improve customer experience with the federal student aid process, the Department debuted a new, centralized hub for customers to access student aid information. The new StudentAid.gov is now the singular place where students, parents, and borrowers can learn about available types of student aid, find the right repayment plan, complete loan counseling, and fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form. The new [StudentAid.gov](https://www.studentaid.gov) consolidates into one singular location the student-facing portions of StudentLoans.gov, fsaid.ed.gov, and nslds.ed.gov. To view the press release, visit: <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/secretary-devos-delivers-promise-launch-centralized-federal-student-aid-information-hub-students-borrowers>.

Governor Signs 'Illinois Works' Legislation, Bolstering Diversity in Apprenticeships for Construction and the Building Trades Workforce on Capital Projects.

As the state embarks on a historic \$45 billion capital program, Governor JB Pritzker signed legislation to strengthen a pillar of Rebuild Illinois and increase diversity in apprenticeships for construction and the building trades. The Illinois Works Jobs Program will help ensure that Illinois residents from all communities not only benefit from capital projects, but also have access to careers in the construction industry and building trades. Today's effort includes especially those who have been historically underrepresented in those trades. To obtain additional information, visit: <https://www.riverbender.com/articles/details/gov-pritzker-signs-illinois-works-legislation-bolstering-diverse-workforce-on-capital-projects-38553.cfm>.

Success Story

LA:RISE - Workforce Innovation Fund Partnership Model

Los Angeles Regional Initiative for Social Enterprise (LA:RISE) is an innovative, collaborative partnership that unites the City and County of Los Angeles' Workforce Development System (WDS) with non-profit social enterprises and for-profit businesses in order to help individuals with high barriers to employment get good jobs and stay employed.

The LA:RISE project offers a pathway from unemployment to permanent work for homeless youth, those who have been previously incarcerated and now re-entering the workforce, and other individuals with significant barriers to employment.

Social enterprises and workforce agencies work together to better prepare individuals both professionally and personally by providing paid work experience and wrap around supports such as housing, transportation, and legal services. By co-enrolling individuals into WIOA, LA:RISE is able to leverage funds and work more efficiently.

Funded initially by the Department of Labor through a Workforce Innovation Fund grant, LA:RISE is now funded locally by a City of LA General Fund allocation, LA County Measure H, and workforce funding.

To obtain additional information, visit:

https://innovation.workforcegps.org/resources/2019/12/15/22/23/LA_Rise_WIF_Partnership_Model.

Interested in sharing a new practice or innovative approach that you're trying in your area?

The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) is interested in sharing strategies from across the country to promote peer learning and replication. If you would like to be considered for featuring in an upcoming newsletter, please email your organization, program name and brief description of the practice or approach to the ETA Division of Youth Services at: youth.services@dol.gov.

Funding & Other Opportunities

PGE Foundation Invites Applications for Education Programs. The [PGE Foundation](#) is accepting applications for its education grants program. Through the program, grants will be awarded in support of programs that provide real opportunities and a clear pathway for young people to higher education and/or a career through hands-on and workforce development activities. Eligible applicants must be a charitable, nonprofit organization classified as tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (or have equivalent qualifying status) and be based in Oregon and serve Oregonians; priority will be given to groups located in counties where PGE has customers and power-generating plants. The foundation does not fund public K-12 schools directly. [read more...](#) **Deadline: January 11.**

Captain Planet Foundation Invites Applications for ecoTech™ Grants. The [Captain Planet Foundation](#) is accepting applications for its ecoTech™ Grants. Through the program, grants of up to \$2,500 will be awarded in support of innovative technological programs that address environmental challenges and efforts to engage children in inquiry-based STEM-related projects, leverage technology, and/or use nature-based design to address environmental problems in local communities. Eligible applicants must be based in the U.S., have an annual operating budget of no more than \$3 million, and be tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (including most nonprofits and schools), or have a fiscal sponsor with such status. [read more...](#) **Deadline: January 15.**

Peter and Elizabeth Tower Foundation Invites Applications for Programs Serving Children with Disabilities. The [Peter and Elizabeth Tower Foundation](#) will award grants through its Programs & Services program in support of projects focused on children, adolescents, or young adults (up to age 26) affected by intellectual disabilities, learning disabilities, mental illness, and/or substance use disorders. Eligible applicants must be located in and currently providing services to one or more of the above populations in Erie and Niagara counties in western New York or Barnstable, Dukes, Essex, and Nantucket counties in eastern Massachusetts; and be tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or a not-for-profit public benefit corporation, public or diocesan school district, or a private or charter school. [read more...](#) **Deadline: January 15.**

Funding & Other Opportunities

(continued)

AWS Foundation Invites Applications From Indiana Organizations Serving People With Disabilities. The [AWS Foundation](#) is accepting application from organizations who work to help children and adults with enduring intellectual, developmental, and physical disabilities live as independently as possible, be included in the community, and function at their highest potential. Letters of Intent (LOI) are required from organizations approaching the foundation with their first formal grant request, those requesting capital support, requests for \$50,000 or more, and multiyear requests. LOIs are due January 31, 2020. Upon review, selected applicants will be invited to submit a full application by February 28, 2020. Eligible applicants must be tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and serve the northeast Indiana counties of Adams, Allen, DeKalb, Grant, Huntington, Kosciusko, Noble, Steuben, Wabash, Wells, and Whitley. [read more...](#) **Deadline: January 31.**

Herb Block Foundation Invites Applications for Pathways Out of Poverty Program. The Herb Block Foundation is accepting applications for its Pathways Out of Poverty program. Through the program, grants of up to \$25,000 will be awarded to nonprofit organizations working to help young people and adults in need in the greater Washington, D.C., region gain a quality education. For projects serving youth, the foundation seeks proposals focused on improving student achievement and the healthy development of young people; projects may include in-school and community-based educational programs, afterschool activities, and mentoring programs. Eligible applicants must be a nonprofit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code that is located in and/or provides services within the greater Washington, D.C. region (defined by the foundation as the District of Columbia; the counties of Arlington and Fairfax and the City of Alexandria in Virginia; and the counties of Montgomery and Prince George in Maryland). [read more...](#) **Deadline: Letters of intent due February 6.**

Blandin Foundation Invites Applications for its Education Grants. The [Blandin Foundation](#) will award needs-based grants of up to \$4,500 per student to local students who will graduate, or have graduated, from one of these Itasca County (MN) schools: Grand Rapids, Bigfork, Deer River, Hill City, Greenway, Nashwauk-Keewatin, Remer, Blackduck, Northome, Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig, and Northern Lights Community School, as well as home-schooled students who would have attended any of these schools. Eligible students must be no more than 25 years old as of September 1, 2020, and be registered as a full-time student (12 credits per semester) at any accredited school in the United States. This can include trade schools, certificate programs, community, technical and tribal colleges, as well as four-year colleges and universities. (Graduate and doctoral students are not eligible.) Students also must make satisfactory academic progress toward their degree program, meaning they must maintain at least a 2.0 GPA or higher. [read more...](#) **Deadline: March 1.**

Funding & Other Opportunities

(continued)

Sodexo Foundation Invites Applications for its Youth Grants. The Sodexo Foundation will award grants up to \$1,200 to youth leaders ages 5-25 across the U.S. to turn their ideas into action and make an impact on the issue of childhood hunger on Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) – April 17-19, 2020 – and during summer 2020. [read more...](#) **Deadline: February 16.**

American Promise Alliance Invites Applications for its Power of Youth Challenge. America Promise Alliance is accepting applications for its Power of Youth Challenge program. The program is designed to assist youth with bringing positive change to their community by leading a local service project. Youth can also make a difference and develop skills you can use now and in the future. Through the program teams of at least three youth ages 13-18 will receive coaching and support to develop their projects. Every team that signs up will have access to financial support in the form of mini grants of up to \$250. [read more...](#) **Deadline: Ongoing through June 30.**

Resources

A Toolkit to Engage Employers and Opportunity Youth on the Future of Work. This [toolkit](#) jointly produced by the Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions and the Aspen Institute Economic Opportunities Program provides a starting point for community leaders to learn about changes happening now that can provide insights about future changes in the nature and structure of work and related implications for youth and young adults in their communities.

Education and Career Toolkit. This new [toolkit](#) released by Youth Engaged 4 Change is a collection of resources curated by youth for youth to help with one of the biggest decisions young people face. Users can find resources on career and education paths, paying for school, career planning, and more.

The Continued Student Loan Crisis for Black Borrowers. This [study](#) released by the Center for American Progress tracks students who first entered college in the 2011-12 academic year for six years, through 2017. The data add a significant new element to policymakers and researchers' understanding of student loan repayment. This is the first time a U.S. Department of Education longitudinal study tracked undergraduate students who began college after 2007, when Congress started creating more generous income-driven repayment (IDR) plans. Thus far, IDR is the main solution that policymakers have devised to help struggling borrowers. These plans reduce monthly payments by capping them at a set share of income.

Resources

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Implementing Evidence-Based Programs to Support College Success. This [brief](#) released by MDRC describes how its Scaling Up Community College Efforts for Student Success (SUCCESS) aims to help more low-income students and students of color graduate by combining proven components into an integrated three-year program. This brief also provides an early look at participating states and colleges and how they have aligned SUCCESS with existing initiatives.

Highlights of U.S. PISA 2018 Results Web Report. This [report](#) released by the National Center for Education Statistics provides key comparative information about 15-year-old students in the United States and 77 other education systems that participated in the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2018. PISA is sponsored by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and focuses on students' ability to apply the knowledge and skills they have learned, both in and out of school, to real-world problems, assessing students who are nearing the end of secondary schooling. PISA 2018 data are based on students' performance on the PISA assessments of reading, mathematics, and science literacy as well as students' and principals' responses to survey questions. The web report highlights U.S. student performance across these three subject domains in comparison to their peers in the 77 other participating education systems, including the other 36 member countries of the OECD, with a special emphasis on reading literacy, the major focus of PISA 2018.

The Virtual Student Outreach for College Enrollment (V-SOURCE). This 15-month [college advising program](#) released by the Education Research Report is designed to provide low-income students with more of the information, reminders, and support that higher-income students typically receive when applying for college. The intervention is designed to facilitate access to advisors and targets high school students on track to be academically eligible for admission to a 4-year college in California's public system. The study tested two versions of V-SOURCE. The "Complete Program" provided access to a personal advisor who met with students online and via text; the "Milestones Program" provided access to a fully automated advisement system. Both versions provided access to the V-SOURCE website, which included an on-line SAT study program and email and text reminders to complete application activities. Both V-SOURCE programs offered milestone rewards (\$20 electronic gift cards) to students after they completed four key milestones: registered for the SAT, took the SAT, submitted two college applications to public postsecondary systems in California, and submitted the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on time.

Resources

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Some College and No Degree: How Individuals Who Attend and Don't Graduate Feel about Education. This [report](#) released by Strada Education Network gives policymakers an unprecedented and nuanced understanding of the significant some-college, no-degree population. By using these insights, derived directly from speaking to thousands of stopped-out students, leaders can create tailored solutions to re-engage these adults in local economies. This report is also intended to inform employers, educators, and policymakers as you collaborate to improve education and employment outcomes for all.

Game Plan for Engaging Youth. This [resource](#) released by Youth.gov summarizes ideas for engaging adolescents in promoting their health and healthy development. This information was gathered during a meeting held in March 2015 with youth-serving groups on ways to engage youth in Adolescent Health: Think, Act, Grow® (TAG).

Institute on Disability Announces Upcoming Release of Annual Disability Statistics Compendium. The Institute on Disability at the University of New Hampshire will be releasing its Annual Disability Statistics Compendium on February 11, 2020. The Compendium provides national and state-level statistics on people with disabilities and the government programs that serve the population with disabilities. The annual event is designed to share what has been learned during the year and highlight data from Federal partners. This year there will be two special panels: rural disability statistics, and opioid use and behavioral health for people with disabilities. To register for the event, visit: <https://researchondisability.org/annual-compendium-registration>.

Career and Technical Education Builds the Skills Employers Need. This new [feature](#) posted on the Institute for Research on Policy web site is based on their recent Career and Technical Education (CTE) Workshop that shows how today's CTE is evolving in response to changing labor market conditions. Ensuring equity by income level, place, and disability in CTE access is also discussed. To view the resource, visit: <https://www.irp.wisc.edu/career-and-technical-education-builds-the-skills-employers-need/>.

New Web Tables on Public High School Graduates' Education and Employment Outcomes, by Career and Technical Education Participation. The National Center for Education Statistics released a set of 24 web tables which examine the education and work outcomes of 2013 public high school graduates three years after graduation, with a focus on students who had different levels of participation in career and technical education (CTE) during high school. These tables use data from the High School Longitudinal Study of 2009 (HSL:09) and its 2013 high school transcript collection and 2016 second follow-up. To view the tables, visit: <https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/ctes>.

Resources

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Past Webinars

On December 12th, the Office of Family Assistance (OFA) Peer TA hosted a webinar entitled: **Adult Literacy and Education: Strategies to Alleviate the Literacy Gap**. During the webinar participants explored how programs are addressing these challenges and provided an overview of the current state of adult literacy and education in the United States. The webinar also featured successful program strategies for improving literacy levels and preparing adults for sustainable employment. To view an archive of the webinar, visit:

<https://peerta.acf.hhs.gov/content/ofa-webinar-adult-literacy-and-education-strategies-alleviate-literacy-gap>.

On November 6th, the Institute for Research and Poverty hosted a webinar entitled: **Can Career and Technical Education (CTE) Improve Student Outcomes?** The webinar focuses on how after a few decades of decline, there has been a resurgence of interest in Career and Technical Education (CTE) in high schools around the country. Yet, there are still questions about the effects of CTE on student outcomes. Participants discussed how CTE programs can adjust to meet the demands of changing job markets and how programs can be designed to provide better opportunities to disadvantaged populations. Additionally, during the webinar, [Shaun Dougherty](#), Associate Professor of Public Policy and Education at Vanderbilt University and co-principal investigator of the Career and Technical Education Research Network, discussed the evidence on these and other issues. To view an archive of the webinar, visit:

<https://www.irp.wisc.edu/resource/can-career-and-technical-education-cte-improve-student-outcomes/>.

Upcoming Events

January 20, 2020. MLK Day of Service 2020.

January 21-22, 2020. Ameal Island, FL. American Association of Community Colleges' [Workforce Development Institute](#).

January 22-25, 2020. Ameal Island, FL. American Association of Community Colleges' [Workforce Development Institute](#).

February 3-5, 2020. National Skills Coalition [2020 Skills Summit](#).

April 16-18, 2020. New Orleans, LA. National Youth Leadership Council's [2020 National Service-Learning Conference](#).



To subscribe or unsubscribe to the Youth Resource Connections Newsletter, visit: http://www.doleta.gov/youth_services and click the "Subscribe to E-mail Updates" button.

We welcome your input.

Please let us know how these newsletters might be improved to better serve your needs. If you have comments, contact the Employment and Training Administration's Division of Youth Services at **(202) 693-3030** or e-mail: youth.services@dol.gov.

The Department of Labor (DOL), Employment and Training Administration (ETA) does not take responsibility for non-endorsed DOL/ETA resources included in the newsletter.